

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, PORG, PE

SUBJECT: MORALES BERMUDEZ COMMENTS ON ELECTIONS, USG STATEMENT

1. SUMMARY: MORALES IMPLIES DEPORTED ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES WILL TAKE THEIR SEATS, STRESSES SOVEREIGN NATURE OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, SUPPORTS POLITICAL PLURALISM AND SEES LIKELIHOOD OF COORDINATING MECHANISMS BETWEEN ASSEMBLY AND DE FACTO GOVERNMENT. HE REJECTS "EXTERNAL VIGILANCE AND PATERNALISM" BY US OR OTHER OF PERU'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN JUNE 23 PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING INAUGURATION OF THE PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ ANSWERED VARIOUS QUESTIONS CONCERNING JUNE 18 ELECTIONS. HIS REMARKS HAVE BEEN WIDELY PUBLICIZED ON TV AND IN PRESS.

3. ON ISSUE OF DEPORTED ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES, PRESIDENT IMPLIED CLEARLY THAT THOSE ELECTED WOULD BE PERMITTED TO RETURN AND TAKE THEIR SEATS. "THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO RESPECT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. WE HAVE SAID THAT THE ASSEMBLY, ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE, HAS A TRANSCENDENTAL AND SOVEREIGN DUTY. THE PEOPLE HAVE ELECTED THE ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL RESPECT THE
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PEOPLE'S CHOICE."

4. WHEN ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE ALLIANCES BETWEEN THE "THREE CURRENTS" IN THE ASSEMBLY OF THE RIGHT, LEFT, AND CENTER, MORALES BERMUDEZ SAID THIS WAS A DECISION FOR THE PARTIES TO MAKE AND REITERATED THE SOVEREIGN

NATURE OF THE ASSEMBLY. "THIS DEPENDS ON THE WILL OF THE POLITICAL GROUPS AND PARTIES THEMSELVES. THE ASSEMBLY IS FREE IN EXERCISING THIS FUNCTION. AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES ARE ALSO TOTALLY FREE. THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT INTERFERE IN THE ACTIONS OF THE PARTIES. THEY CAN DO WHAT THEY WISH." MORALES ADDED THAT THE ELECTION RESULTS WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE GOP PHILOSOPHY OF POLITICAL PLURALISM. "A DEMOCRACY CANNOT FUNCTION WITH ONLY SOME (POLITICAL) GROUPS, ELIMINATING OTHERS. ...A CONSTRUCTIVE DEMOCRACY... IS FORMER PRECISELY WITH POLITICAL PLURALISM. WE THINK THAT IN PRACTICE, POLITICAL PLURALISM IS GOING TO EXIST."

5. AS TO RELATIONS BETWEEN THE DE FACTO GOVERNMENT AND THE ASSEMBLY, MORALES SPECULATED THAT SOME COORDINATING MECHANISM IS POSSIBLE. " THE ASSEMBLY AND THE GOVERNMENT CAN ESTABLISH MECHANISMS FOR COORDINATION AND DIALOGUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTITUTIONALIZING A TRUE DEMOCRACY IN PERU"

6. MORALES WAS THEN ASKED BY A REPORTER (WHO READ THE WRITTEN QUESTION) ABOUT HE STATE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT ON THE ELECTIONS AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S RESPONSE. ANSWERING IN A CAREFUL, CALM BUT FIRM MANNER, MORALES SAID, "I CONSIDER SUCH INTEREST VERY NATURAL AND LOGICAL AFTER 10 YEARS OF MILITARY RULE...AS TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT BULLETIN, THIS HAS BEEN COMMENTED UPON BY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOREIGN MINISTRY. BUT, IN SYNTHESIS, WE CAN INDICATE THAT PERU DEMANDS THE COMPLIANCE WITH A PRINCIPLE THAT IS AN INTERNATIONAL NORM, THAT PERU RESPECTS AND HAS WITHIN ITS OWN INTERNATIONAL POLICIES; PERU IS EXTREMELY RESPECTFUL OF THE INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF ALL OTHER COUNTRIES BUT AT THE SAME TIME DEMANDS THAT ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, NOT ONLY THE UNITED STATES, BE RESPECTFUL OF PERUVIAN INTERNAL PROBLEMS. THESE CORRESPOND EXCLUSIVELY TO THE PERUVIANS. WE CAN HAVE DIFFERENCES OF WHATEVER NATURE AMONG OURSELVES, BUT AMONG US WE CAN SOLVE OUR DIFFERENCES; WE DO NOT NEED EXTERNAL VIGILANCE NOR PATERNALISM OF ANY KIND NOR (OUTSIDE) INTERFERENCE IN OUR OWN PROBLEMS. AS PERUVIANS WE KNOW HOW TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS OURSELVES."

7. FINALLY, MORALES WAS QUERIED ABOUT AN ASSERTION THAT AS A RESULT OF THE ELECTIONS, THE GOP'S TUPAC AMARU PLAN WAS BEING SCRAPPED. MORALES CALLED IT A "RESPECTABLE OPINION", BUT ONE IN WHICH HE DID NOT CONCUR. "IF THE ARMED FORCES GOVERNMENT HAS CONVOKED THIS CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND WILL SUBSEQUENTLY CONVOKE GENERAL ELECTIONS, IT IS BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT THE

TUPAC AMARU PLAN CALLS FOR. WE CAN'T BE OPPOSED TO THE PLAN BECAUSE WE WOULD BE AGAINST THE VERRY POLITICAL PROCESS IN WHICH WE ARE NOW ENGAGED. IT WOULD BE A CONTRADICTION."

COMENT: PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS WERE OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO MAKE SEVERAL POINTS. ELECTED ASSEMBLY DELEGATES UNDER DETENTION OR DEPORTED EVIDENTLY WILL BE PERMITTTED TO TAKE THEIR SEATS. THE ASSEMBLY, REPRESENTING THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE, MAY HAVE MORE THAN SIMPLY A CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE, AND SOME KIND OF POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ASSEMBLY AND THE GOP IS LIKELY. HIS COMMENTS ON THE US STATEMENT ABOUT THE ELECTIONS WERE OBVIOUSLY CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AND WHILE CLEAR IN THEIR REJECTION OF "EXTERNAL VIGILANCE AND PATERNALISM", ALSO EMPHASIZED THE GENERAL APPLICABILITY OF PERUVIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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